

U.S. National Stage of
PCT/JP2003/013847
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A biodegradable substrate, which comprises a biodegradable nonwoven fabric that is stitched with a biodegradable thread.

2. (original) A biodegradable substrate, which comprises a biodegradable nonwoven fabric and a biodegradable filmy material that are piled up on one another and stitched with a biodegradable thread.

3. (original) The biodegradable substrate according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable filmy material is in the form of a film or a sponge.

4. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the biodegradable nonwoven fabric comprises a laminated product including a first layer and a second layer, each of which has a plurality of biodegradable threads arranged in parallel, the first layer and the second layer being piled up on one another such that an arranging direction of the threads of the first layer and an arranging direction of the threads of the second layer are at an angle with

respect to each other, and adhered to each other.

5. (original) The biodegradable substrate according to claim 4, wherein the laminated product further includes a third layer having a plurality of biodegradable threads arranged in parallel on the first layer or the second layer, where an arranging direction of the threads of the third layer and an arranging direction of the threads of the layer adjacent to the third layer are at an angle with respect to each other, and the third layer and its adjacent layer are adhered to each other.

6. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according to ~~claim 4 or 5~~ claim 4, wherein an acute angle between the arranging direction of the threads of the first layer and the arranging direction of the thread of the second layer, and/or an acute angle between an arranging direction of the threads of the third layer and an arranging direction of the threads of the layer adjacent to the third layer are/is about 20° or less.

7. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according to ~~claim 4 or 5~~ claim 4, wherein an acute angle between the arranging direction of the threads of the first layer and the

arranging direction of the thread of the second layer, and/or an acute angle between an arranging direction of the threads of the third layer and an arranging direction of the threads of the layer adjacent to the third layer are/is about 70° to 90°.

8. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 4, wherein the biodegradable nonwoven fabric comprises a plurality of the laminated products, ~~each of which contains a plurality of layers having threads arranged therein and piled up on one another,~~ and the laminated products are piled up on one another and adhered to each other such that arranging directions of the threads of the layers adjacent to each other at an interface between the laminated products are at an angle with respect to each other.

9. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, wherein the threads arranged on a respective layer have an acute angle of about 0 to 5° therebetween.

10. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 9~~ claim 4, wherein the threads in each

layer are arranged at intervals of about 0 to 40 mm.

11. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, characterized in that ~~stitches are~~ stitching is made in a dotted pattern.

12. (original) The biodegradable substrate according to claim 11, wherein the stitches are made at intervals of about 0.1 mm to 100 mm.

13. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, wherein the surface of the biodegradable nonwoven fabric and/or the surface of the biodegradable thread are/is coated with a biodegradable material.

14. (original) The biodegradable substrate according to claim 13, wherein the biodegradable material is comprised of one or more materials selected from the group consisting of collagen, gelatin, PLA, PLA derivatives, PGA, PGA derivatives and copolymers formed of two or more of PLA, PLA derivatives, PGA and PGA derivatives.

15. (currently amended) The biodegradable substrate according

to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, characterized in that the biodegradable nonwoven fabric and/or the biodegradable thread are/is comprised of one or more materials selected from the group consisting of collagen, gelatin, PLA, PLA derivatives, PGA, PGA derivatives and copolymers formed of two or more of PLA, PLA derivatives, PGA and PGA derivatives.

16. (currently amended) A prosthetic material for tissue regeneration, which is to be filled in a defective portion in a biological tissue, comprising a biodegradable substrate according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1.

17. (currently amended) A cultured tissue, characterized in that biological tissue cells are adhered to a biodegradable substrate according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1.

18. (New) The biodegradable substrate according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable nonwoven fabric comprises a laminated product including a plurality of layers, each layer having a plurality of biodegradable threads arranged in parallel, the plurality of layers being piled up on one another such that an arranging direction of the threads of each of the plurality of

layers is at an angle with respect to an arranging direction of the threads of a layer adjacent thereto, and being adhered to each other.

19. (New) The biodegradable substrate according to claim 18, wherein the biodegradable nonwoven fabric comprises a plurality of the laminated products, and the laminated products are piled up on one another and adhered to each other such that arranging directions of the threads of the layers adjacent to each other at an interface between the laminated products are at an angle with respect to each other.

20. (New) The biodegradable substrate according to claim 19, wherein the biodegradable nonwoven fabric comprises nine laminated products, each of the plurality of layers of each laminated product having threads arranged therein in parallel at intervals of approximately 6 mm, and wherein arranging directions of the threads of the layers adjacent to each other at an interface between the laminated products are at an angle of 70° to 90° with respect to each other.

21. (New) The biodegradable substrate according to claim 20,

wherein the biodegradable nonwoven fabric and a collagen nonwoven fabric formed into a film are stitched together with the biodegradable thread.